

# Spring Mill State Park

**All programs are free unless otherwise noted.**

**Programs at all our state parks and reservoirs:** [www.interpretiveservices.in.gov/programs](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov/programs)

**Nature Center**  
*Open Daily 10am-5pm*

**Pioneer Village**  
*Open Daily 9am-5pm*

**Virgil I. Grissom Memorial**  
*Open Daily 8:30am-4pm*

**Twin Caves Boat Tours**  
*Open Daily 9am-5pm*  
*\$3/adult, \$1/child (under 12)*

**Mountain Bike Rental**  
*Sun 10a-6p; Mon-Tue 12p-8p;  
 Wed-Sat 8:30a-9p*  
*Check out bikes at Camp Store*  
*\$5/hour (includes helmet)*

**Hayrides**  
*Wednesday – Friday - Saturday*  
*6:30pm - 7:30pm - 8:30pm*  
*Register at Camp Store*  
*\$3/person or \$40/wagon*

**Please arrive on time for scheduled programs.**  
*Spring Mill State Park follows Eastern Daylight Time.*

## Public programs are designed for individuals and families.

If you will be bringing an organized group, contact the Nature Center in advance for a copy of our program catalogue and schedule a private program just for your group (prices vary). (812) 849-4129

**Get advance notice of special events and programs!**

Sign up for our email list at the Nature Center, Pioneer Village Grist Mill, Spring Mill Inn, or email [springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:springmillstatepark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

## HP-HP *Healthy Parks – Healthy People*

Get "INShape" with us, and discover what it takes to keep a state park healthy.



LOOK FOR THE  
HIGHER AND  
STORIES

**WATCH FOR THE ROVING NATURALIST**

# June 1-28, 2007

## Friday, June 1

**11:30am**

**Bug Basics** – Learn how to identify common bugs that live in Spring Mill State Park, find out why not all insects are bugs, and make a cute bug craft. Nature Center, Back Patio (45 min).

**3:30pm**



**Plants with a Purpose** – Explore some of the plants used in the past (and some still today) for food and medicine – you may even get to sample a few! Meet at Oak Ridge Shelter parking lot (1 hr).

## Saturday, June 2

**11:30am**

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**11:30pm**

**Survival Skills 101: The Don'ts** – Part of staying safe in the woods is learning what to avoid... like poison ivy and stinging nettle! Learn how to stay away from these and other hazards and what to do if you accidentally encounter them. Meet at the stone bridge next to Sycamore Shelter (1 hr). **HP-HP**

**1:30pm**





**Build a Bug (out of clay!) –** As the weather gets warmer, the insects come out! Join the village potter to create your own pottery “bug” to take home. Bring your creativity and your shoes (unlike real bugs, this one may need to be squashed!). ***Cost is \$5/person; limited to 10 participants. Sign up at the Distillery in the Pioneer Village beginning at 9am. Pioneer Village, Distillery (1 hr).***



**2:30pm**

**Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

## Saturday, June 2 *Continued...*

- 3-4pm** **From the Archives** – We’re digging through drawers and riffling through files for pictures, artifacts, and other interesting items to share with you! Stop by and see what we found today. Old Souvenir Stand (next to Butternut Grove picnic area).
- 3:30pm** **Sweet as Honey** – Explore the importance of honey in pioneer life and learn interesting facts about the honeybees that produce it. Pioneer Village, Garden House (45 min). 
- 5:30pm** **Honey Bee Hike** – What would happen if the honeybee disappeared? Explore the life of a honeybee, the role they play in pollination, and the potential crisis posed by colony collapse disorder. Meet at the Donaldson Cave parking lot (45 min). **HP-HP** 
- 8:00pm** **Meet Smokey Bear!** – America’s favorite fire-safety bear – Smokey – is visiting the park this evening! Play a game, learn some fire safety tips, and, of course, meet the Bear. Don’t forget to bring a camera so you can snap a picture of child with Smokey! Butternut Grove Shelter (1 hr). **HP-HP**

## Sunday, June 3

- 10:30am** **Fitness Walk** – Start your day off right with a brisk walk on a (hopefully!) beautiful morning. We’ll utilize Trail 7 and the hike/bike lane. Meet at Oak Ridge Shelter parking lot (1 hr). **HP-HP** 
- 11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 1:00pm** **From Rags to... Dolls!** – Using scraps of material, you’ll make a rag doll similar to the ones played with by girls during pioneer times. Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Cabin Summer Kitchen (30 min).
- 2:00pm** **Lime Kilns on the Lake** – Join us on a hike to see the remains of two lime kilns above the lake. Almost 120 years old, these kilns still stand as a testament to Spring Mill Village’s “last gasp.” Meet at the Nature Center, back patio (1 hr). 

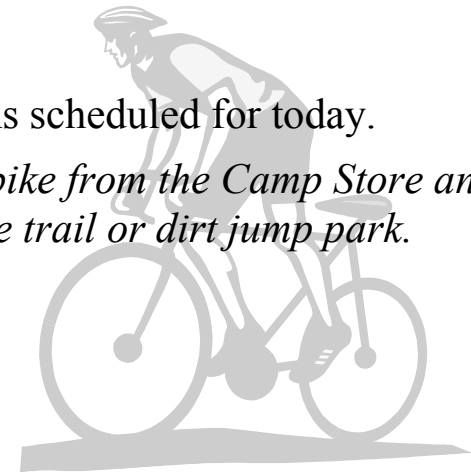
## Sunday, June 3 *Continued...*

- 2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 3:30pm** **The Hamer Era** – From 1832-1881, Spring Mill Village and its gristmill were owner and operated by one family – the Hamers. Explore this time period in history and learn about the impact that the Hamers had on village development. *Program concludes at 4pm when the miller starts up the water wheel for the last cornmeal grind of the day.* Pioneer Village, Gristmill (1<sup>st</sup> floor) (30 min).

## Monday, June 4

No public programs scheduled for today.

*We suggest renting a mountain bike from the Camp Store and trying out the mountain bike trail or dirt jump park.*



## Tuesday, June 5

- 1:00pm** **Below the Surface** – Make your own underwater viewer and then join us for a creek exploration to look for aquatic insects. Meet at the Concession Stand (45 min). **HP-HP**
- 3:30pm** **Blacksmith’s Shop: Behind the Counter** – Take a tour of the blacksmith’s shop and get an up-close look at the forge and tools used by a blacksmith in the 1800s. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith’s Shop (30 min).

## Wednesday, June 6

Today is the pre-registration deadline for our **Wild Edibles Workshop!** Details under program description for June 7.

**11:30am Tooling Technique** – Learn a few ways that leatherworker’s accent their work and use a technique called “tooling” to decorate your own leather keychain. Pioneer Village, Leatherworker’s Shop (45 min).

**3:00pm Proud Hoosiers** – Do you know the state tree of Indiana? State flower? Insect? Bird? Discover the proud plants and animals that have been officially honored by the state of Indiana. Nature Center, Back Patio (30 min).

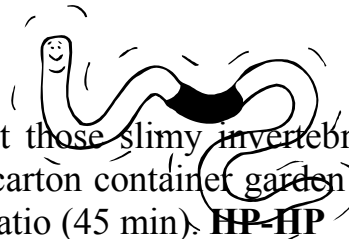


**8:00pm Froggy Families** – We’ll explore the life cycle of frogs, learn about the different sounds they make, and then head down to the lake to search for these singing amphibians. Meet at the Nature Center, Program Room (1 hr). **HP-HP**

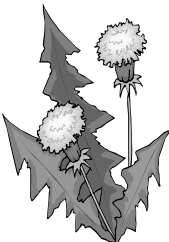


## Thursday, June 7

**11:00am Wiggly Worms** – Discover more about those slimy invertebrates that gardeners love as we make an egg carton container garden and plant some seeds. Nature Center, Back Patio (45 min). **HP-HP**



**1:30pm Wild Edibles Workshop** – This workshop is for people who are interested in wild edibles but just not sure where to start. We’ll cover identification of early summer edible plants and proper harvesting and preparation techniques. Most of the workshop will take place outside, so dress for the weather and wear good hiking shoes. **Pre-registration is required by June 6 to the Park Office (812-849-4129). Limited to 10 people; cost is \$8/person.** Meet in the Nature Center, Program Room (2½ hr).



## Friday, June 8

**10:30am Fitness Walk** – Start your day off right with a brisk walk on a (hopefully!) beautiful morning. We’ll utilize Trail 2 and the hike/bike lane. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot (45 min). **HP-HP**



**2:30pm What Wood’ve Dunnit?** – In this twist on traditional detective work, you’ll learn how to identify tool marks on pioneer buildings and furniture to discover what tools were used in their construction more than a century ago. Meet in the Pioneer Village’s Carpenter Shop (45 min).



**4:00pm Camping 101: Build a Campfire** – Get your camping weekend started right by learning the basics of building a good fire, how to build a fire for different types of uses, and how to extinguish it when you’re finished. Campground Amphitheater (next to site #108), fire pit (1 hr).



## Saturday, June 9

**11:30am Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**1:00pm Survival Skills 101: How Not to Get Lost in the Woods** – Learn how to avoid losing your way and, if that doesn’t work, the best strategies for getting yourself found quickly. Nature Center, Back Patio (45 min). **HP-HP**

**2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**4:30pm Hoosier Quest Series** – Want to earn a bandanna, patch, unique lapel pin, and other goodies? We’ll tell you how you can earn them through the Indiana DNR’s new “Hoosier Quest” series! There are options for families of all ages and individuals (ages 5 and up) – including a level that can be completed in a single weekend! Nature Center, Program Room (30 min). **HP-HP**

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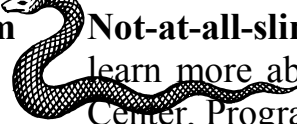
## Saturday, June 9

*Continued...*

**8:00pm**    **The Magic and Medicine of Plants** – Explore some of the magical and medicinal properties that people have attributed to plants throughout our history. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (30 min).

## Sunday, June 10

**11:30am**    **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).


**1:00pm**     **Not-at-all-slimey Snakes** – Meet a few of our resident snakes and learn more about the types of snakes that live in the park. Nature Center, Program Room (45 min).

**2:30pm**    **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).


**3:30pm**    **Bug Hotel** – Make a temporary home for insects, learn how to make your guests comfortable during their stay, and find out what types of insects make good guests. Nature Center, Back Patio (30 min).

## Monday, June 11


**11:30am**    **Pioneer Playthings** – Learn about the toys of pioneer times and make your own “whizgig.” Pioneer Village, Meeting House (30 min).

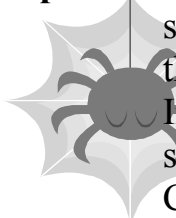
**2:30pm**     **Step Back In Time...** - and learn what Spring Mill Village was like almost 200 years ago! On this walking tour, you'll hear some of the stories behind the buildings and the people. Meet in front of the Leatherworker's Shop in the Pioneer Village (1 hr).

## Tuesday, June 12

**4:00pm**     **Oh, to be a Tree!** – The largest plants growing in the woods, trees are an important part of the ecosystem. Discover the role they play in the forest while learning to identify some common varieties. Meet at the Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min). **HP-HP**

## Wednesday, June 13

**1:30pm**     **If You Plant It, They Will Come** – Discover the best plants for attracting beautiful butterflies to your home garden. Attendees will take home a small start of zinnia or butterfly weed. Pioneer Village, Formal Garden (45 min). **HP-HP**

**3:30pm**     **What Tangled Webs They Weave** – Delve into the world of spiders! Learn about some of our most common varieties and how they survive. You'll get to see a real brown recluse spider – one of Indiana's few poisonous arachnids. After we've learned about spiders, you can make a spider web mobile to take home. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

**8:00pm**    **Birdie Basics** – Check out real nests, feathers, and eggs as we explore the world of birds and learn about some regular residents of Spring Mill State Park. Campground Amphitheater, next to site #108 (45 min).



## Thursday, June 14



**11:00am**    **Play Like a Pioneer** – Despite the hard work of pioneer life, kids still found times to have fun! Learn and play some of the games that pioneers created to entertain themselves. Pioneer Village, Gristmill Lawn (by the flagpole) (45 min).

**2:00pm**    **Survival Skills 101: First Aid for the Intrepid Explorer** – Learn the basics of wilderness first aid, what supplies you should always carry with you, and when it's best to call for expert help. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (1 hr). **HP-HP**



## Friday, June 15

**3:30pm**    **Leather Braiding** – Using only one strand of leather, you'll learn how to create a braid with our village leatherworker. Pioneer Village, Leatherworker's Shop (30 min).

Saturday, June 16

- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 1-2pm  Eigenmann’s Little, Blind Fish – Learn about the important animal discovered in Donaldson Cave more than a hundred years ago. Watch for the roving naturalist along the creek in front of Donaldson Cave.
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 3:00pm The Story of Sam Bass – Listen to the story of an outlaw, Sam Bass, and his connection to the Sheek’s house (now our Weaver’s Cabin). Pioneer Village, Weaver’s Cabin (30 min).
- 9:30pm  StoneBelt Stargazers’ Summer Star Party – Get a whole new perspective on the night sky when you view it through a telescope! The Stargazers will bring their telescopes to share - and point out some of the wonders of the night. We suggest bringing lawn chairs or a blanket to sit on (and your own binoculars or telescope, if you have one). Swimming Pool parking lot (1½ hr).


Sunday, June 17

- 11:00am  Cemetery Stroll – Discover some of the people buried in Hamer Cemetery and explore the significance of tombstone symbols on the graves. Meet at Hamer Cemetery (30 min).
- 11:30am Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).
- 12:00pm  A Forest in Flames... Not all fires are destructive, some are very important to ecosystem health. Learn about the role that fire can play in a forest while hiking through an area of Spring Mill that was deliberately burned by park staff in April. Meet at the Donaldson Cave parking lot at the top of the Trail 4 stairs (45-60 min).

Sunday, June 17 Continued...

- 1:30pm Cornhusk Dolls – Want a unique decorative item for your house or a gift for a special child? Make your own regular-sized (about 8” tall) cornhusk doll! *Limited to 20 participants; sign up (and see an example) in the Gristmill beginning at 10am. Cost is \$5/participant.* Pioneer Village, Meeting House (1 hr 30 min).
- 2-3:30pm From the Archives – We’re digging through drawers and riffling through files for pictures, artifacts, and other interesting items to share with you! Stop by and see what we found today. Old Souvenir Stand (next to Butternut Grove picnic area).
- 2:30pm Sawmill Demonstration - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

Monday, June 18

- 2:00pm  Timber Frame Tour – On this walking tour of the Pioneer Village, learn how to identify the various features and techniques of timber frame construction present in our village buildings and check out some of the tools that left their “mark”. Meet in the Pioneer Village’s Carpenter Shop (45 min).


Tuesday, June 19


- 1:00pm Native Peoples of Indiana – Explore the cultures of southern Indiana’s native inhabitants and learn what happened to them when European pioneers began to move to Indiana. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (1 hr).
- 3:30pm Quilting Circle – Learn the basics of quilting and make a quilt block that serves as a coaster. Pioneer Village, Meeting House (1 hr).

Wednesday, June 20


- 1:30pm Braid It Up – Make your own cord bracelet and learn the technique of card braiding. Limited to 25 people (first-come, first-served). Pioneer Village, Leatherworker’s Shop (30 min).

## Thursday, June 21

**11:00am**  **These Rocks Rock!** – Discover the main types of rocks and minerals found in Spring Mill State Park, learn how they formed, and decorate a limestone paperweight to take home with you. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

**3:30pm**  **There's Rocks in Them Thar Hills!** – and the pioneers (and other groups) made good use of it. We'll check out an historic lime kiln, quarry, and two unique picnic circles that all relied on limestone. Meet next to Butternut Grove Shelter (1 hr).

## Friday, June 22

**10:00am**  **The Underground World of Caves** – Bring a flashlight and prepare to get a little muddy as we explore the dry side of Donaldson Cave and search for cave life. Meet in the Donaldson Cave parking lot (1 hr). **HP-HP**

**11:30am** **Camping 101: Knot Knowledge** – Learn to tie several knots that can come in handy when camping. You'll get hands-on instruction and a reminder sheet to take with you. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45-60 min).


**1:30pm** **Crochet Like a Pioneer!** – Through hands-on practice, you'll learn the basics stitches of crocheting – chain, single, and double – and explore the use of this needlecraft in pioneer life. Pioneer Village, Weaver's Cabin Summer Kitchen (1 hr).

**3:30pm** **The Importance of Corn** – Explore the role that corn played in pioneer life and the development of Spring Mill Village while making a small ear of corn out of cornhusks. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch (45 min).

## Saturday, June 23


**11:00am** **For Goodness Sakes, SNAKES!** – Meet a few of the slithering reptiles that live in Spring Mill State Park. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

**11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**1:00pm**  **Tree Tour** – Examine bark, leaves, and other clues and discover how to distinguish one tree from another. You'll also take home a identification key to help you recognize trees in the future. Meet in front of the Grissom Memorial (1 hr).

**2-3pm** **From the Archives** – We're digging through drawers and riffling through files for pictures, artifacts, and other interesting items to share with you! Stop by and see what we found today. Old Souvenir Stand (next to Butternut Grove picnic area).

**2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (15 min).

**3:30pm**  **Money in the Bank** – Learn about the forms of money used by pioneers and build your own pottery bank out of clay for use in storing today's money. **Cost is \$5/person; limited to 10 participants.** Sign up at the Distillery in the Pioneer Village beginning at 9am. Pioneer Village, Distillery (1 hr).

**4:00pm** **Camping 101: Beyond the Campsite** – Once you're settled into your campsite, it's time to explore! Learn how to read a topographic map, use a compass, and plot a good hiking path. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (1 hr).

**8-10pm** **Twilight Tours of Twin Caves** – Listen to stories and legends about caves and cave explorers during these special evening tours of our underground system. **Pre-registration required by 5pm (to Twin Caves).** Maximum of 20 people/tour. Tours run at 8pm, 8:30pm, 9pm, and 9:30pm. Cost is \$4/adult, \$2/child.



## Sunday, June 24

**9:00am** **Raise the Flag** – Discover why our flag is short a few stars, learn a few etiquette rules for handling flags, how flags are properly folded, and then watch as the American flag is raised above the village to start the day. Pioneer Village, Flagpole (10 min).

**10:00am** **Walk With Us!** – Join us for a brisk fitness walk through the Mitchell Karst Plains Nature Preserve. Wear good walking shoes (you may also want to bring water). Meet at the Oak Ridge Shelter parking lot (1 hr). **HP-HP**



**11:30am** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

**1:30pm** **Paw-fect Paperweights** – Learn how to recognize the paw prints left behind by Indiana’s native canines and felines and pick one to feature on your own, unique paperweight. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).



**2:30pm** **Sawmill Demonstration** - See how lumber was cut in the 1800s using the power of water. Pioneer Village, Grist Mill (30 min).

**3:00pm** **Poisons, Venoms, and Toxins** – As we learn about venomous animals and insects and poisons and toxins in plants, we’ll discuss the risk (if any) they pose to people. Meet at the Twin Caves parking lot (45-60 min). **HP-HP**



## Monday, June 25

**1:00pm** **Feed the Birds** – Make a soda bottle bird feeder while learning about seed selection, feeder placement, and the types of birds that may stop by for a meal. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (30-45 min). **HP-HP**

**3:30pm** **Life around the Lake** – Join us on a search for beavers, dragonflies, birds, frogs, turtles, snakes, and other animals that can be found on the edges of Spring Mill Lake. Meet at the Nature Center, back patio (45-60 min).



## Tuesday, June 26

**11:30am** **Tool-Making Demonstration** – Watch the effect that heat tempering has on tooling during this demonstration by the village blacksmith. Pioneer Village, Blacksmith’s Shop (30 min).

**2:30pm** **Leaf-ing Prints** – Explore the wide variety of shapes present in the leaves of trees and other plants while making your own wrapping paper using leaf prints. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min).

## Wednesday, June 27

**12-1:30pm** **These are Dangerous Days...** for our forest’s ash trees! The emerald ash borer is afoot and indiscriminating attacking Indiana’s ash trees. Learn about the threat posed by the E.A.B., discover what you can do to prevent its spread, and pick up some E.A.B. freebies. Watch for the roving naturalist in the Butternut Grove picnic area. **HP-HP**



**2:30pm** **A Day in the Life of a Pioneer Potter** – As our village potter demonstrates common types of vessels made in pioneer times, you’ll learn about the work of a potter in a 19<sup>th</sup> century community.

**8:00pm** **The Legend of George Donaldson** – Listen to stories and legends about an eccentric man whose foresight left us Donaldson Woods – a piece of Indiana forest that has never been logged. Meet at Twin Caves parking lot (1 hr).



## Thursday, June 28

**11:30am** **The Pursuit of a Pioneer Woman** – Explore the rituals of courtship during the 1800s while making a rose (a symbol of love) out of cornhusks. Pioneer Village, Upper Residence Porch (45 min).

**3:30pm** **Adopt a Tree** – Discover the features that make a tree unique as you fill out the “adoption” paperwork for your favorite tree. A great program for kids – they can see how their adopted tree grows and changes between their visits to the park. Nature Center, Outdoor Amphitheater (45 min). **HP-HP**

